

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-05 OMB-01 /061 W

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R 242345Z JAN 75

FM AMCONSUL PORT MORESBY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 258

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT MORESBY 0072

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV, PGOV, PP

SUBJECT: PAPUAN SEPARATIST ACTIVITY

REF: PORT MORESBY 252; PORT MORESBY 253; STATE 014264

1. SENSATIONAL STATEMENTS MADE BY SIMON KAUMI AND JOSEPHINE ABALIAH ARE BEING PICKED UP BY AUSTRALIAN PRESS AND RADIO (SEE SEPTTEL FOR EXAMPLE OF AUSTRALIAN EDITORIAL COMMENT.)

2. KAUMI SAID JANUARY 19 THAT NEW REPUBLICAN GOVERNMENT WOULD BE RUN ALONG MILITARY LINES. POST COURIER, JANUARY 20, QUOTED HIM AS SAYING BRANCHES OF PAPUAN REPUBLIC FIGHTERS ARMY WERE TRAINING IN PORT MORESBY, KEREMA, DARU, ALOTAU, AND POPONDETTA. "SOLDIERS ARE TO BE ISSUED RIFLES, UNIFORMS AND BATTLE KITS. I CANNOT SAY WHERE THE ARMS ARE COMING FROM, BUT ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO GET THEM". THIS SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN TAKEN VERY SERIOUSLY BY AUSTRALIAN PRESS.

3. GPNG HAS ISSUED A STERN WARNING, BUT WE SEE NO EVIDENCE THAT KAUMI'S THREATS ARE CONSIDERED SERIOUS HERE. SOMARE HAS BEEN IN WEWAK SINCE
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CHRISTMAS, FLEW TO NEW IRELAND THIS WEEK, AND WILL

NOT BE IN PORT MORESBY UNTIL JANUARY 25. HE HAS CANCELLED HIS PLANS FOR ATTENDING THE NAURU INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS BUT KIKI'S DEPARTURE FOR PEKING IS STILL FIRMLY SET FOR JANUARY 30, ACCORDING TO DFRT OFFICIAL WHO WILL ACCOMPANY KIKI. KIKI WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY MOI AVEI WHICH MEANS THAT TWO PROMINENT PAPUANS RESOLUTELY OPPOSED TO PAPUAN SEPARATISM WILL BE OUT OF THE COUNTRY FOR OVER TWO WEEKS.

4. WE UNDERSTAND THAT LEADING PAPUANS ARE TALKING AMONG THEMSELVES ABOUT WHAT IS BEST FOR PAUA, BUT WE SEE NO RALLYING AROUND THE KAUMI-ABAIJAH ACTIVITY. THERE HAVE BEEN NO DEMONSTRATIONS, NO MASS MEETINGS, NO RALLIES HERE, AND WE ARE UNAWARE THAT ANY ARE SCHEDULED. WE HEAR VERY LITTLE TALK ABOUT THE SUBJECT EXCEPT WHEN WE BRING IT UP AND THEN THE TALK IS USUALLY DESULTORY. PEOPLE FAMILIAR WITH THE LOGISTICAL PROBLEMS OF PAUA SHRUG OFF THE TALK ABOUT OBTAINING ARMS FROM ABROAD AS ABSURD.

5. JOSPEHINE ABAIJAH IS VERY NIMBLE-FOOTED IN JUMPING ON BANDWAGONS THAT DO NOT HAVE MUCH STEAM BEHIND THEM. NEITHER SHE NOR KAUMI, WHO IS GENERALLY THOUGHT TO HAVE PSYCHOLOGICAL PROBLEMS, SEEMS TO BE OF THE CALIBER TO LEAD A SUCCESSFUL SEPARATIST MOVEMENT.

6. TEI ABAL, LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION, CRITICIZED GPNG FOR LACK OF ACTION AGAINST KAUMI ACCORDING TO POST-COURIER JANUARY 23. HE CHARACTERIZED TAKEOVER OF PLANTATION AS "ILLEGAL AND REPREHENSIBLE", AND CALLED ON GOVERNMENT FOR STRONG ACTION TO STOP UNAUTHORIZED TAKEOVERS. THIS IS FAIRLY TYPICAL OF THE LIMITED COMMENTS WE HEAR: EMPHASIS ON THE PLANTATION TAKEOVER RATHER THAN THE FORMATION OF THE PAPUAN REPUBLICAN ARMY AND THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.

7. WHILE THERE ARE GENUINE PAPUAN GRIEVANCES, I DO NOT ANTICIPATE THAT THEY WILL COME TO A FOCUS BECAUSE OF THE RECENT KAUMI-ABAIJAH ACTIVITY.
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IM THIS MESSAGES, DRAFTED JANUARY 23, IS BEING HAND CARRIED TO TAIPEI FOR TRANSMISSION.
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Message Attributes

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